



**December 9, 2004**

**Subject: Update: Cove Sewer and Street Improvements**

**Dear Cathedral City Cove property owner:**

We would like to bring you up to date on what's happening with the proposed Cove sewer project.

By way of background, residents in the Cove and City staff have spent the past two years working to meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 358 which requires that septic tank use be eliminated in the Cove by January 1, 2012. AB 358 was passed by the State in October 2001 in response to the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) finding that the long-term use of septic tanks in the Cove is contributing to the degradation of the area's underground water supply.

In July 2004, the City Council accepted petitions from approximately 53% of the property owners in the Cove requesting that the City provide cost estimates of an assessment district to pay for sewers and streets. The City Council directed the City Engineer to put together a team of qualified assessment and design engineers to create plans and cost estimates for the proposed improvements. The City is now performing the necessary design, engineering and financial work, leading to balloting this spring when Cove residents will vote on whether or not to form a district.

**What is currently happening with the project in the Cove?**

Field surveyors from the design engineer hired for the City, Psomas Engineering, are currently in the Cove collecting data with a variety of survey equipment. The workers are easily identified by Psomas trucks and orange safety vests.

Some of the survey technicians need access to residents' driveways or perimeters of houses to obtain the elevations of homes in comparison to the street. Therefore, workers may knock on your door to ask permission to look at the elevation of your property and confirm septic tank location. However, in some cases, workers may be able to gather the needed information without disturbing property owners at all.

Only field survey work – not construction -- is taking place. If you are at home and know the location of your septic tank, or would like to point out a particular issue on your property related to the proposed sewers, please feel free to tell the surveyors.

**How can I keep informed on this project?**

Cove residents interested in the progress and details of this project can now call a new COVE HELP LINE accessible 24 hours a day. Residents are welcome to leave their questions and requests for information at this phone number. All calls will be responded to in a timely manner by a qualified member of the engineering team. The COVE HELP LINE will be updated on a regular basis with information regarding the schedule and status of the project

**The COVE HELP LINE Phone Number is (760) 250-8673**

Although the COVE HELP LINE will be answered in a timely manner and all telephone calls will be logged and responded to, you are also welcome to contact the City's Engineering Department directly, by calling Donna Velotta, Engineering Secretary, at (760) 770-0349.

**How can Cove residents be involved during project development?**

Regular community meetings will be held for property owners in the Cove starting in January 2005, providing you the opportunity to discuss the project with the engineering team and city staff.

There is also another opportunity for interested residents to be involved in the project development. You are invited to be a member of the Cove Sewers Project Steering Committee by participating in monthly working sessions with the engineering team. These meetings will last for two to three hours once a month and will include an in-depth perspective of the project's development. If you are interested in being part of the Cove Sewers Project Steering Committee, please notify Ms. Velotta and she will provide you with the meeting dates and times.

We look forward to working with you on this vital project to bring improvements to the Cove and to assure your viewpoints are heard and addressed.

Sincerely,

Julie Baumer  
Deputy City Manager

William O. Bayne, P. E.  
City Engineer